

11-6590

30 July 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

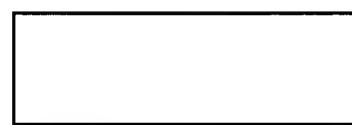
SUBJECT : Monthly Letters from the Field

1. At a recent Staff meeting you expressed the thought that you might send a letter of appreciation to Field Chiefs for their monthly letters to you.

2. In reviewing these letters each month I find a tendency on the part of a number of Field Chiefs to devote two or more pages to a roundup of political or economic situations which have already been thoroughly reported; in effect summarizing the information reports submitted during the preceding month while adding nothing of interest or value to their correspondence to you. Another fairly common fault is the excessive and frequently unnecessary use of cryptonyms and pseudonyms which require decryption before the messages become intelligible.

3. I suggest a letter to the Field Chiefs which would combine a note of appreciation from you with guidance for improving the quality and usefulness of the Monthly Letters. There is attached a proposed draft of such letter for your consideration.

25X1



Acting Inspector General

Attachment

cc: DDCI

16

25X1

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chiefs, All Field Stations and Bases

SUBJECT : Monthly Letters from the Field

REFERENCE :

I wish I could write directly to thank each of you for the monthly letters you send me from the field. These letters are most helpful because they present your problems and activities in a personal light which could not be matched through regular channels. Even though you seldom get individual replies, I want you to know that each letter comes straight to my office and is read with care and interest.

So long as these letters remain clear, timely, and informal, I hesitate to suggest a format or in any way limit their content. However, please remember that significant developments all over the world are covered with great speed and detail by KUBARK, by our intelligence colleagues, and often by the press, and that general political and economic situation reports usually are out-dated by the time your monthly letters reach me. Also, bearing in mind the very restricted handling of the monthly letters, please simplify my reading by keeping pseudonyms and cryptonyms down to the minimum consistent with security.

I value the personal relationships established by these letters, and hope you will continue using them to give me an inside look at your problems and activities.

25X1

DRAFT BOOK DISPATCH

TO: Chiefs of Stations and Bases

SUBJECT: Monthly Letters

1. From time to time, a number of you have elected in your monthly letters to me to philosophize, comment, or present views on non-operational political and economic matters in your areas. These views or comments do not contain new intelligence and their inclusion in the letter is

consistent with [redacted] However, because these first-

hand viewpoints are generally most constructive and informative, it has been desirable at times to make them known to other Agency officers, particularly those responsible for the production of intelligence in which an assessment of local political and economic situations is an essential ingredient.

2. Accordingly, those of you who elect to include in your monthly letters, observations of the nature referred to above, should place them on a separate page or within a paragraph clearly apart from the operational or private content of the letter. This will facilitate desirable dissemination.

3. You should not interpret this dispatch as a solicitation for an expression of views, for the concept of the monthly letters is in no way altered. The letter continues to be a medium in which you can include information or views at your own discretion, consistent with [redacted] and it is hoped, briefly and concisely.

STAT

Allen W. Dulles
Director

GENERAL CABELL:

I disagree that much of the economic and political information has been reported previously and therefore need not be commented on in the monthly field letters.

It is my opinion that one of the values of the letters is indeed the personal commentary of our man on the spot to the political events. The facts that come forward in the normal course of intelligence reporting often do not contain the personal evaluation of the Chief of Station, and it seems to me that, in the Director's responsibility to report to the NSC, it is not a bad idea for him to have available his field chiefs' personalized viewpoints on the happenings around the world.

Therefore, I would suggest letting well enough alone and knocking out the admonition included in the second sentence of the second paragraph of the proposed memorandum.

JMC redrafted letter
+ gave to DDCI w/ aps
for distribution at Deps.

agreed
CPC

JMC

ed STAFF

ER:

Please file this original for background purposes.

FYI: I understand the ltr to field chiefs was
redrafted and passed out at Deps. Mtg on 8/11.
No action on this paper taken.

mfb
11/4/59